

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1208

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for United States contributions to the International Fund for Ireland, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. HYDE, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WALSH, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for United States contributions to the International Fund for Ireland, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Northern Ireland
5 Peace and Reconciliation Support Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States has been effectively en-
9 gaged in the Northern Ireland peace process through

1 both participating in negotiations and contributing
2 to the economic development of the region.

3 (2) Both the Government of Ireland and the
4 Irish people and the Government of the United
5 Kingdom and the British people are long-standing
6 friends of the United States and the American peo-
7 ple.

8 (3) In 1986, the United States, in support of
9 the Agreement Between the Government of Ireland
10 and the Government of the United Kingdom
11 (“Anglo-Irish Agreement”) dated November 15,
12 1985, initiated annual contributions to the Inter-
13 national Fund for Ireland (“International Fund”) to
14 help bolster economic development and support pro-
15 grams that would foster peace and reconciliation in
16 Northern Ireland and the affected border areas of
17 the Republic of Ireland.

18 (4) The United States has been a generous and
19 faithful donor to the International Fund, contrib-
20 uting more than \$386,000,000 to help improve rela-
21 tions between Catholics and Protestants in Northern
22 Ireland through the creation of thousands of jobs
23 and cross community business development.

24 (5) More than 80 percent of the International
25 Fund’s investments have been in disadvantaged

1 areas offering work experience and important job
2 training programs for disadvantaged and unem-
3 ployed youth through the economic, social, and phys-
4 ical regeneration of deprived areas.

5 (6) The International Fund has also developed
6 a series of community-building programs promoting
7 greater dialogue and understanding between Catho-
8 lics and Protestants and leadership programs de-
9 signed to develop a new generation of leaders in
10 Northern Ireland to bring about a more peaceful
11 and prosperous future in the region.

12 (7) Through the Anglo-Irish Agreement Sup-
13 port Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–415), the United
14 States also seeks to ensure that its contributions
15 promote “reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the
16 establishment of a society in Northern Ireland in
17 which all may live in peace, free from discrimination,
18 terrorism, and intolerance, and with the opportunity
19 for both communities to participate fully in the
20 structures and processes of government.”.

21 (8) The Good Friday Agreement reached by the
22 Government of Ireland, the Government of the
23 United Kingdom, and political party leaders on April
24 10, 1998, created the Northern Ireland Executive
25 Assembly and Executive Committee and provided for

1 a “democratically elected Assembly in Northern Ire-
2 land which is inclusive in its membership, capable of
3 exercising executive and legislative authority, and
4 subject to safeguards to protect the rights and inter-
5 ests of all sides of the community.”.

6 (9) The Good Friday Agreement also called for
7 police reform and establishment of a “new begin-
8 ning” in policing in Northern Ireland with an effec-
9 tive, accountable, and fair police service capable of
10 attracting and sustaining support from the commu-
11 nity as a whole, capable of maintaining law and
12 order, and based on principles of protection of
13 human rights.

14 (10) In 1999, the Independent Commission on
15 Policing in Northern Ireland, mandated by the Good
16 Friday Agreement, made 175 recommendations for
17 policing reform in Northern Ireland, some of which
18 have been implemented.

19 (11) In 2002, the Department of State, as re-
20 quired by section 701(d) of the Foreign Relations
21 Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law
22 107–228), issued a “Report on Policing Reform and
23 Human Rights in Northern Ireland” and concluded
24 that among key areas of concern that had not been
25 fully implemented was the establishment of a criti-

1 cally-needed new police training facility and an in-
2 crease in funding for training programs.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) United States assistance for the Inter-
6 national Fund has contributed greatly to the eco-
7 nomic development of Northern Ireland and that
8 both objectives of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Sup-
9 port Act of 1986, economic development and rec-
10 onciliation, remain critical to achieving a just and
11 lasting peace in the region, especially in the eco-
12 nomically-depressed areas;

13 (2) although there has been positive economic
14 development in both the Republic of Ireland and
15 Northern Ireland, International Fund contributions
16 to support much-needed projects in economically-de-
17 pressed areas of Northern Ireland remain very im-
18 portant, and an expansion of efforts in reconciliation
19 projects as a way to promote peace and economic
20 stability is also encouraged; and

21 (3) since policing reform is a significant part of
22 winning public confidence and acceptance in the new
23 form of government in Northern Ireland, the Inter-
24 national Fund is encouraged to support programs
25 that enhance relations between communities, and be-

1 tween the police and the communities they serve,
2 promote human rights training for police, and en-
3 hance peaceful mediation in neighborhoods of contin-
4 ued conflict.

5 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT**
6 **SUPPORT ACT OF 1986.**

7 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 2(b) of the
8 Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 is amended
9 by adding at the end the following: “Furthermore, the
10 International Fund is encouraged to support programs
11 that enhance relations between communities, and between
12 the police and the communities they serve, promote human
13 rights training for police, enhance peaceful mediation in
14 neighborhoods of continued conflict, and promote training
15 programs to enhance the new district partnership police
16 boards recommended by the Patten Commission.”.

17 (b) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INTER-
18 NATIONAL FUND.—Section 3 of the Anglo-Irish Agree-
19 ment Support Act of 1986 is amended by adding at the
20 end the following:

21 “(c) FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005.—Of the
22 amounts made available for fiscal years 2004 and 2005
23 to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance
24 Act of 1961 (relating to the economic support fund), there
25 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each

1 such fiscal year for United States contributions to the
2 International Fund. Amounts appropriated pursuant to
3 the authorization of appropriations under the preceding
4 sentence are authorized to remain available until ex-
5 pended. Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for
6 fiscal years 2004 and 2005 under this subsection, it is
7 the sense of Congress that not less than 20 percent of
8 such amount for each such fiscal year should be used to
9 carry out the last sentence of section 2(b).”.

10 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 6(1) of the Anglo-
11 Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 is amended by add-
12 ing at the end before the semicolon the following: “, spe-
13 cifically through improving local community relations and
14 relations between the police and the people they serve”.

○